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ST. PETERS MAN INDICTED FOR POSSESSION OF CHILD PORNOGRAPHY

ST. LOUIS, MO - Brian Buehrle was indicted for possession of child pornography, United States Attorney Catherine L. Hanaway and St. Charles County Prosecuting Attorney Jack Banas announced today.

The indictment alleges that between May and August 2006, Buehrle was in possession of numerous computer images of children under the age of eighteen engaged in sexually explicit conduct, which he had downloaded from the Internet.

Buehrle, 23, 300 block of Park Charles North, St. Peters, Missouri; was indicted by a federal grand jury on one felony count of possession of child pornography.

If convicted, Buehrle faces a maximum penalty of ten years in prison and/or fines up to \$250,000, followed by supervised release for life.

This case is being brought as part of Project Safe Childhood. In February 2006, Attorney General Alberto R. Gonzales created Project Safe Childhood, a nationwide initiative designed to protect children from online exploitation and abuse. Led by the United States Attorneys Offices, Project Safe Childhood marshals federal, state and local resources to better locate, apprehend, and prosecute individuals who exploit children via the Internet, as well as identify and rescue victims. For more information about Project Safe Childhood, please visit www.projectsafechildhood.gov/.

Hanaway commended the work on the case by the Federal Bureau of Investigation, the St. Charles County Sheriff's Department, the Missouri Internet Crimes Against Children Task Force, the Regional Computer Crimes Education and Enforcement Group, and Assistant United States Attorney Tiffany Becker, who is handling the case for the U.S. Attorney's Office.

The charges set forth in an indictment are merely accusations, and each defendant is presumed innocent until and unless proven guilty.